

Department of Justice

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FORMER EMPLOYEE OF KETTERING-BASED COMPANY INDICTED FOR AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT, FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING

DAYTON - A federal grand jury here has indicted James Wan Shing Kong, age 34, in a 73-count indictment alleging that he stole account information of approximately 1,000 customers of the company he worked for in order to defraud the company out of almost \$3.4 million between February 2006 and January 2007.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Kurt Douglass, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service; and Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Cincinnati Field Office, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation announced the indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment charges King with one count of bank fraud, 25 counts of wire fraud, five counts of committing fraud with an access device, 32 counts of aggravated identity theft, five counts international money laundering, and five counts of money laundering of more than \$10,000.

Kong worked for CareCredit, LLC. The Kettering-based company operates and administers a consumer credit card program specializing in providing a point-of-sale financing option to consumers of generally uninsured health, vision, dental, and veterinary services. Tens of thousands of merchants and professionals providing such services have participated in the CareCredit program, and the enrolled consumers number in the millions.

Kong lived in southern California and traveled among the company's three customer service support centers in California, Nevada and Arizona. His job included developing, managing and implementing software and procedures used at the call centers. The indictment alleges that he used his knowledge of the computer systems to steal account numbers and other identifying information on approximately 1,000 of the company's customers and 95 participating service providers.

"With this information, Kong allegedly made fictitious and unauthorized charges to customers' accounts," Lockhart said. "He also allegedly posed as service providers and redirected payments into bank accounts he created." Lockhart said.

Kong resigned from the company in March 2006 and returned to his home country of Malaysia.

Lockhart said he will seek to have an arrest warrant issued for Kong.

Bank fraud and wire fraud each carry a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment. Committing fraud with an access device carries a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment. Each count of aggravated identity theft can be punished by up to two years on each count, consecutive to any other time served. Money laundering is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by the IRS-CI and Secret Service agents, and Deputy Criminal Chief Vipal Patel, who is prosecuting the case.